Sunday August 13, 2017
Emotional Wholeness And Deliverance Series
Part 6 : Crucifying The Flesh

Quick Review

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Part 6 : Crucifying The Flesh

A very important part of staying emotionally whole is to crucify the flesh, or to keep the flesh "crucified".

By "flesh" we mean the wrong, sinful, evil desires of the body, the physical part of us. Of course this is very tightly integrated to our soul (mind, will and emotions).

We saw earlier based on James 1:14, that we are tempted when we are drawn by our own sinful desires. These sinful desires originate in our flesh and/or our soul.

Fleshly Lusts War Against The Soul

1 Peter 2:11
Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul,

fleshly lusts refer to sinful bodily passions, or passions or desires of the flesh

Giving in to the sinful desires of the flesh, actually harms or damages our soul (mind, will, emotions).

Fruits of the Flesh

Galatians 5:19-23
19 Now the works (acts, deeds) of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication (sexual impurity), uncleanness (impurity), lewdness (filthiness),
20 idolatry, sorcery (witchcraft, magic), hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions (divisions), heresies,
21 envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.
22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,
23 gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.

When a person is controlled, giving in or living in accordance to the flesh, we see the works, deeds or acts of the flesh, some of which are listed above. We can add a lot more to this list of "fruits of the flesh": anger, arrogance, argumentative, blaming others, bitterness, controlling, condescending, cowardice, complaining, critical, cunning, cynical, demanding, depressive, dishonest, dissatisfaction, discontentment, deceptive, envy, greed, hatred, indifference, intolerance, insecurity, irresponsibility, jealousy, judgmental, lust, manipulative, negativity, pessimism, prejudice, pride, resentment, revengeful, rude, sarcasm, secretive, self-centeredness, selfishness, skeptical, stingy, suspicious, unforgiving, untrusting, unsympathetic, etc.

These "fruits of the flesh", or outcomes of giving in to the desires of the flesh not only harm us, but are also hurtful to others.

Seeds, Roots And Fruits

Bad seeds give rise to problem roots, which produce fleshly fruits.

When the wrong kind of seeds are sown into our lives, example seeds of discouragement, negativity, strife, anger, hate, abuse, rejection, abandonment, etc. these take root and bear the wrong kind of fruit in our lives.

In some situations, especially when growing up, we may not have much control on these 'seeds' that were sown. As adults, however we have a good measure of control on what gets into us. We can be responsible and watchful to ensure that only good things are sown and nurtured in our lives.

We need to recognize the wrong seeds that were sown into our lives and ask God to deal with the roots, so that we can get rid of the wrong fruits.

In several places in Scripture we see the heart being compared to ground, and the person to a tree bearing fruit.

In identifying false prophets (Matthew 7:15-20)
Matthew 7:15-20
15 "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves.
16 You will know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes from thornbushes or figs from thistles?
17 Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit.
18 A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit.
19 Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.
20 Therefore by their fruits you will know them.

The parable of the sower (Matthew 13:1-23), the Lord Jesus referred to the heart being the ground, God's Word the seed, and it bearing fruit in our lives. So what is sown into our hearts, bears fruit in our lives.

Bad fruit, indicates a bad tree, indicating a bad root.

Bad seeds give rise to problem roots, which produce fleshly fruits.

We must ask the Lord to lay the axe to the root, to get rid of wrong things completely.

If the root is not dealt with, it will hurt us and others around us. Consider the root of bitterness spoken about in Hebrews 12.

Hebrews 12:14-17
14 Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord:
15 looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled;
16 lest there be any fornicator or profane person like Esau, who for one morsel of food sold his birthright.
17 For you know that afterward, when he wanted to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no place for repentance, though he sought it diligently with tears.

We have to be watchful over our lives. He mentions three areas, one of which is to ensure no root of bitterness grows up and cause trouble and affects others. The writer of Hebrews does not mention the seeds that cause the root of bitterness. Regardless of the seeds (cause), we have to deal with the root. Get rid of the root.

Laying The Axe To The Root

As John the Baptist introduced the ministry of Jesus, he announced that the Lord Jesus has come to lay the axe to the root of the trees, to get rid of every tree that bears bad fruit and to burn it up (the chaff) with the fire of His Holy Spirit.

Matthew 3:10-12
10 And even now the ax is laid to the root of the trees. Therefore every tree which does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.
11 I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.
12 His winnowing fan is in His hand, and He will thoroughly clean out His threshing floor, and gather His wheat into the barn; but He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire."

The axe must be laid to the root.

"The tree" bearing bad fruit and "the chaff", both representing the flesh, must be burned with the fire of the Holy Spirit.

We have addressed this at length in our free publication "Laying The Axe to the Root".

There are some major roots that cause problems: Self, Jealousy, Pride, Lust.

Are there wrong seeds that have been sown into your life?
Are there "problem roots" or "fleshly roots" that need to be dealt with? You can identify the roots by the fruits you see in your own life.
Invite the Lord Jesus to lay the axe to the root of these things.

In order to get rid of the works or fruits of the flesh, we must walk in the Spirit.

Live in the Spirit, Walk in the Spirit

Galatians 5 and Romans 8 are both powerful chapters that teach us how to walk in the Spirit so that the fruits of the flesh are eliminated from our lives as believers and instead the wonderful presence of the Spirit, the fruit of the Spirit, the virtues of Christ are seen through the life of the believer.

We live in the Spirit. This is the new creation life we have. We are born of the Spirit. Our life is in Him.

But if we claim to live in the Spirit, we must walk in the Spirit.

Galatians 5:25
If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.

The word "walk" in the Greek means to proceed in a row as the march of a soldier, go in order, to march in (military) rank (keep step), to walk in line. (Based on Strong's and Thayer's dictionaries).

Hence to walk in the Spirit is to keep step with the Holy Spirit. It is to direct one's life and to live in step and aligned to the Holy Spirit.

To "walk in the Spirit" means we live out of our union with Him in every detail of our lives. We think, speak and act out of our union with Him in everything in life.

Galatians 5:16-17
16 I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.
17 For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish.

While the flesh desires to do things that are opposed to the Spirit of God, if we live in union with the Spirit we will not yield to the sinful desires of the flesh.

Galatians 5:18
But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

The reason we do NOT do the sinful things of the flesh, is not because we are "under the law" and we feel we are to keep the law, but because we are led by or walking in union with the Spirit of God.

To be "led by the Spirit" is to "walk in the Spirit" which is to live in union with the Spirit.

Galatians 5:22-25
22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,
23 gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.
24 And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.
25 If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.

When we walk in the Spirit, we produce the fruit of the Spirit instead of the fruits of the flesh.

If we walk in the Spirit we will not fulfill the lusts of the flesh. Why? Because the Holy Spirit empowers us to crucify the flesh with its passions and desires.

This is the same truth brought to us in Romans 8.

Romans 8:8-13
8 So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God.
9 But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His.
10 And if Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness.
11 But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.
12 Therefore, brethren, we are debtors—not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh.
13 For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.

Walking in the flesh is displeasing to God.

As believers we are not to live in the flesh but in the Spirit. For a believer, the body (the flesh) is dead, because it only leads to sin. We do not owe anything to the flesh.

13 For if you live according to the flesh you will die;....
Living according to the flesh will only lead to death, eternal spiritual death is what is referred to here. So a believer, saved by grace, who has Christ in him, and the Spirit dwelling in him, if he continues to live according to the flesh, eventually will journey into eternal spiritual death at some point.

13 ... but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.
As a believer, with the help of the Holy Spirit, by walking in the Spirit, we bring to an end the sinful practices of the body (the flesh), we will journey into eternal spiritual life.

The Holy Spirit empowers us to crucify (put to death) the sinful deeds of the body.

Crucifying the flesh may at times be painful. Jesus used strong terms of plucking out and cutting off, to deal with things that are causing you to sin. But the Spirit of God will empower us to do so.

Matthew 5:29-30
29 If your right eye causes you to sin, pluck it out and cast it from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell.
30 And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and cast it from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell.

Walking in the Spirit is key, to getting rid of fleshly lusts and guarding our soul, so that we are emotionally strong, sound and whole.

Be Rooted In Him

Colossian 2:6-7
6 As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him,
7 rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving.

All our roots must be in Him, in the Person of Jesus Christ.

Colossians 2:7 (Amplified Bible)
Have the roots [of your being] firmly and deeply planted [in him, fixed and founded in him]…

Rooted *rhizoo* (Gr.) = to root (figuratively become stable).

The roots of your being should be firmly planted in Him.

Let your roots go deep into the person of Jesus Christ—not in a denomination, a ministry, a vision, a certain kind of teaching—but in the person of Jesus Christ.

Summary
Fleshly Lusts War Against The Soul
Fruits of the Flesh
Seeds, Roots And Fruits
Laying The Axe To The Root
Live in the Spirit, Walk in the Spirit
Be Rooted In Him

LIFE GROUP STUDY GUIDE

Emotional Wholeness And Deliverance Series
Part 6 : Crucifying The Flesh

The is a simple guide for use in Life Group discussions. Our objective is to focus on the application of the Sunday sermon - how each one is becoming a doer of the Word and building their life on God's Holy Word. The Life Group meeting would normally last for 2 hours. Each Life Group would have up to 12-15 people.

Preparation
To prepare for the Life Group meeting, you can listen to the Sermon Key Points (sermon summary in five minutes) or the full length Sunday sermon. You can also review the Sunday Sermon notes. All these are available in the "All Peoples Church Bangalore" mobile App or online at apcwo.org/sermons . Pray for the Life Group meeting and invite the work and ministry of the Holy Spirit.

Welcome
The Life Group meeting may commence with a time of prayer, worship and a fun activity.

LISTEN to God's Word

Read the following Scripture passages: *1 Peter 2:11; Hebrews 12:14-17; Matthew 3:10-12; Galatians 5:16-26; Romans 8:5-13; Colossian 2:6-7*

INVESTIGATE God's Word Together

Discuss these together, giving time for people to share their insights.
We encourage each one individually to make notes of their personal learning during the Group study.

1, We learn that "fleshly lusts war against the soul". Identify a real-life scenario, where a person indulging in some form of "fleshly lust" destroys his own souls (mind, will, emotions).

2, We mentioned that "bad seeds" give rise to "problem roots", which give rise to "fleshly fruits". Trace an example of a bad seed. Identify the kinds of problem roots it could give rise to. Then identify some of the fleshly fruits that would become evident in the individual's life because of the problem roots.

3, Walking in the Spirit is key, to getting rid of fleshly lusts and guarding our soul, so that we are emotionally strong, sound and whole. Discuss what you understand by "walking in the Spirit" and how we would do this in practical, day-to-day life.

If time permits, each one takes a few (3 minutes max) to share one or two main learning today and how they see themselves applying it into their specific life situations. Within the group, feel free to share areas of emotional healing that may be needed. (Keep all matters confidential).
Encourage each one to participate and share.

FELLOWSHIP by sharing your life and spiritual journey

Each one takes a few (3 minutes max) to share anything from their walk with God, something God has been teaching them, a testimony of answered prayer or a specific challenge that they would like prayer for. Encourage each one to participate and share.

ENCOURAGE each other by praying and ministering to one another

Get into small groups of two or three and take turns to thank God and pray for each other in the light of what was learnt today. Listen to the Holy Spirit. Expect the gifts of the Holy Spirit to flow bringing healing, releasing miracles, prophecy, etc.

Regroup and close by thanking God together.

USEFUL RESOURCES

Watch our online Sunday Church service live stream every Sunday at 10:30am (Indian Time, GMT+5:30). Spirit filled, anointed worship, Word and ministry for healing, miracles, and deliverance.
YOUTUBE: https://youtube.com/allpeopleschurchbangalore
WEBSITE: https://apcwo.org/live

Our other websites and free resources:
CHURCH: https://apcwo.org
FREE SERMONS: https://apcwo.org/resources/sermons
FREE BOOKS: https://apcwo.org/books/english
DAILY DEVOTIONALS: https://apcwo.org/resources/daily-devotional
JESUS CHRIST: https://examiningjesus.com
BIBLE COLLEGE: https://apcbiblecollege.org
E-LEARNING: https://apcbiblecollege.org/elearn
WEEKEND SCHOOLS: https://apcwo.org/ministries/weekend-schools
COUNSELING: https://chrysalislife.org
MUSIC: https://apcmusic.org
MINISTERS FELLOWSHIP: https://pamfi.org
CHURCH APP: https://apcwo.org/app
CHURCHES: https://apcwo.org/ministries/churches
WORLD MISSIONS: https://apcworldmissions.org